



# **Florida Formula for Student Achievement:** *Lessons for the Nation*

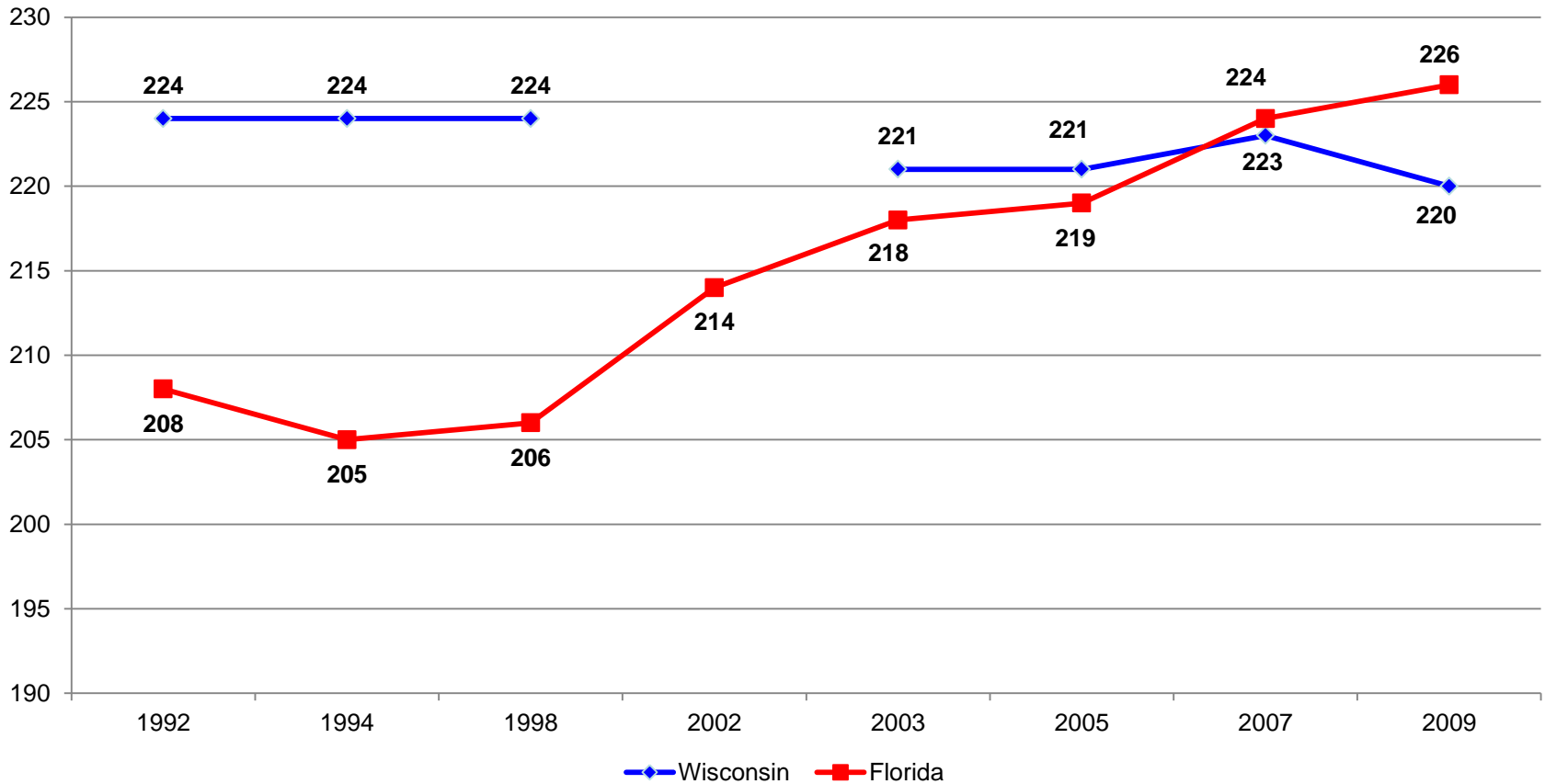
# Florida Student Population

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- 2.7 million students
- Majority minority student population
- Large population of students learning English as a second language
- About half of students are eligible for free and reduced priced lunch

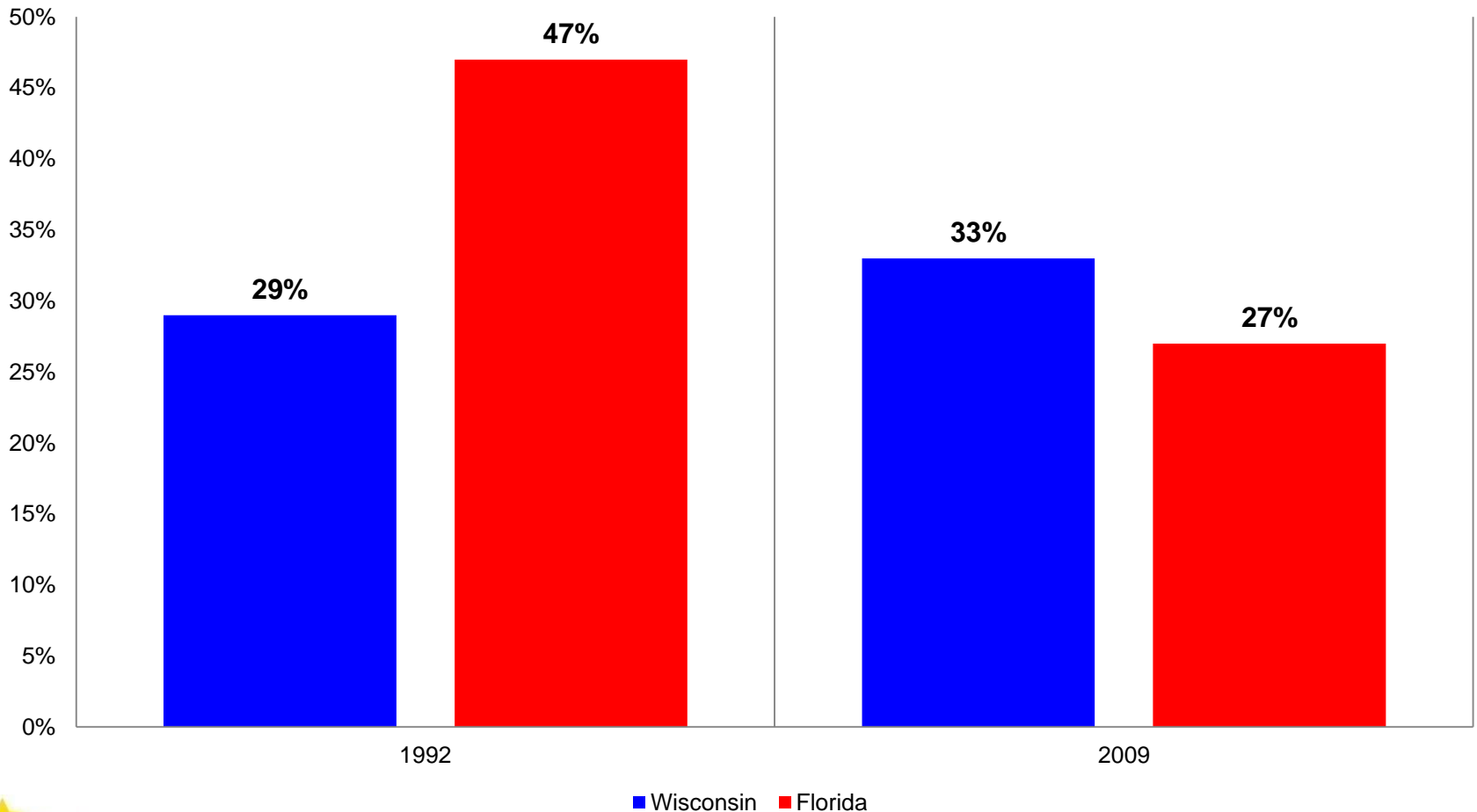
# NAEP

## Average NAEP 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading Scores, Florida and Wisconsin 1992-2009



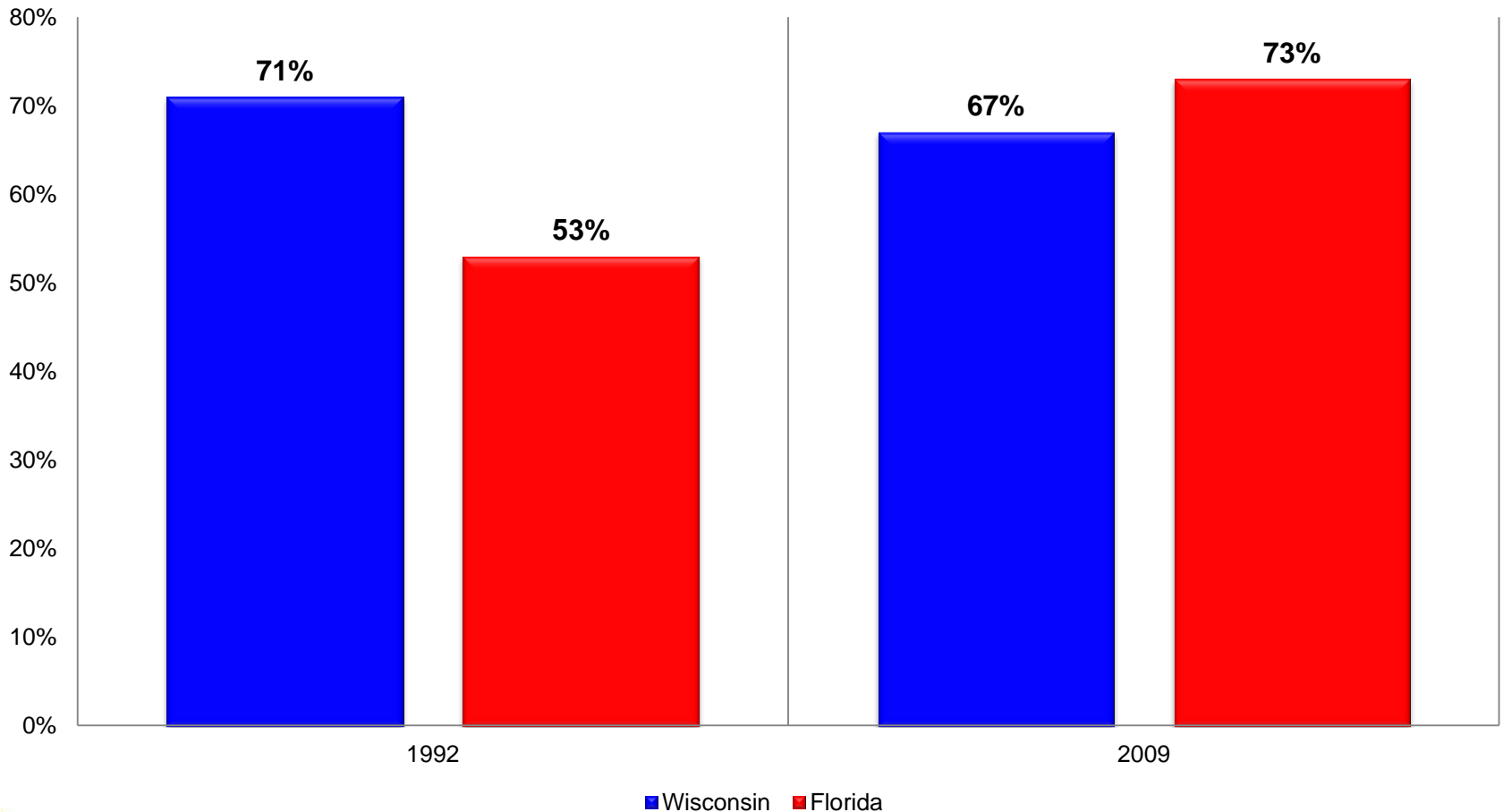
# NAEP

Percentage of Florida and Wisconsin Students Scoring at the "Below Basic" level on the NAEP's 4th Grade Reading, 1992 and 2009



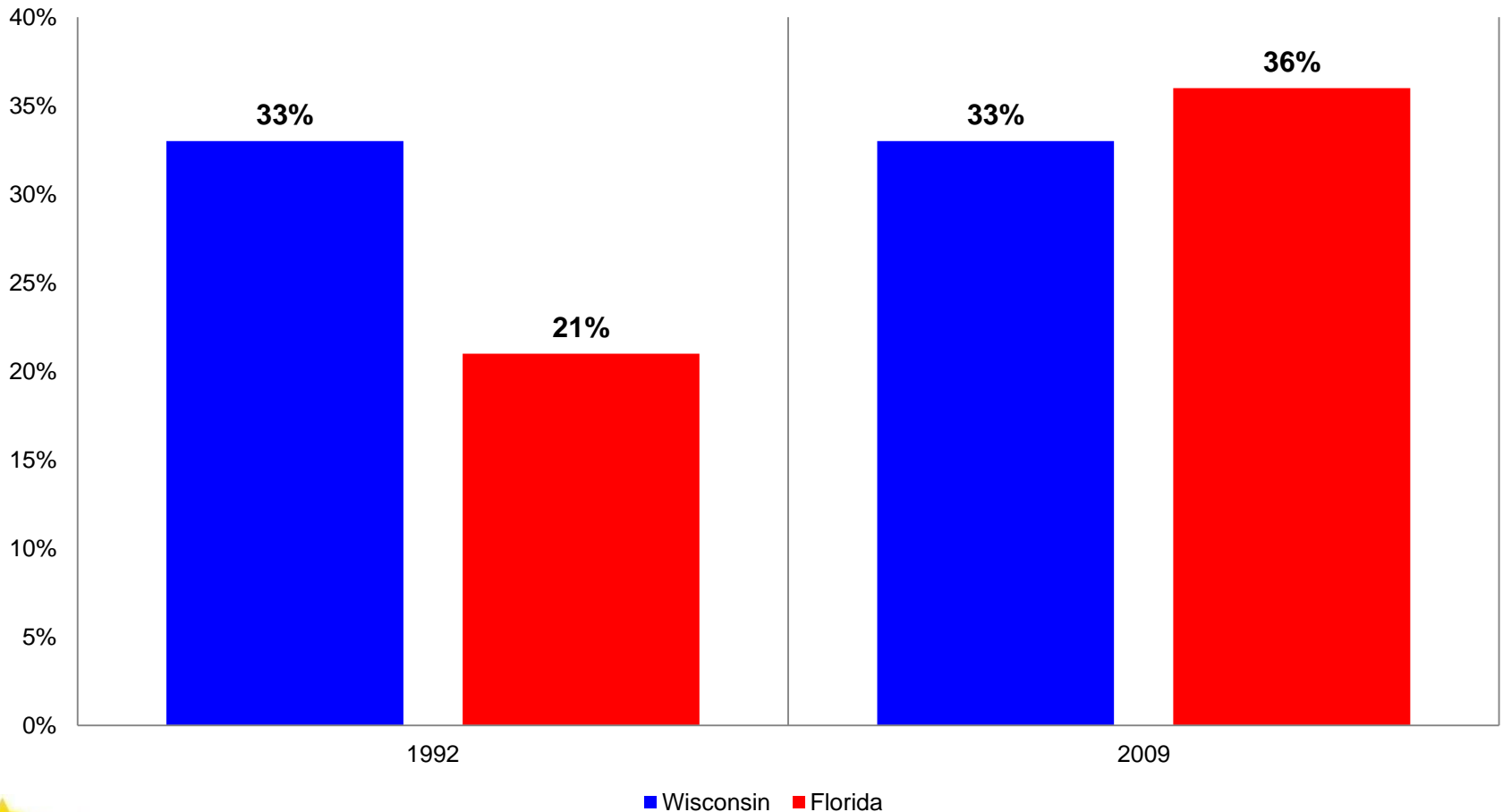
# NAEP

Percentage of Florida and Wisconsin Students Scoring at the "Basic" or Better level on NAEP's 4th Grade Reading, 1992 and 2009



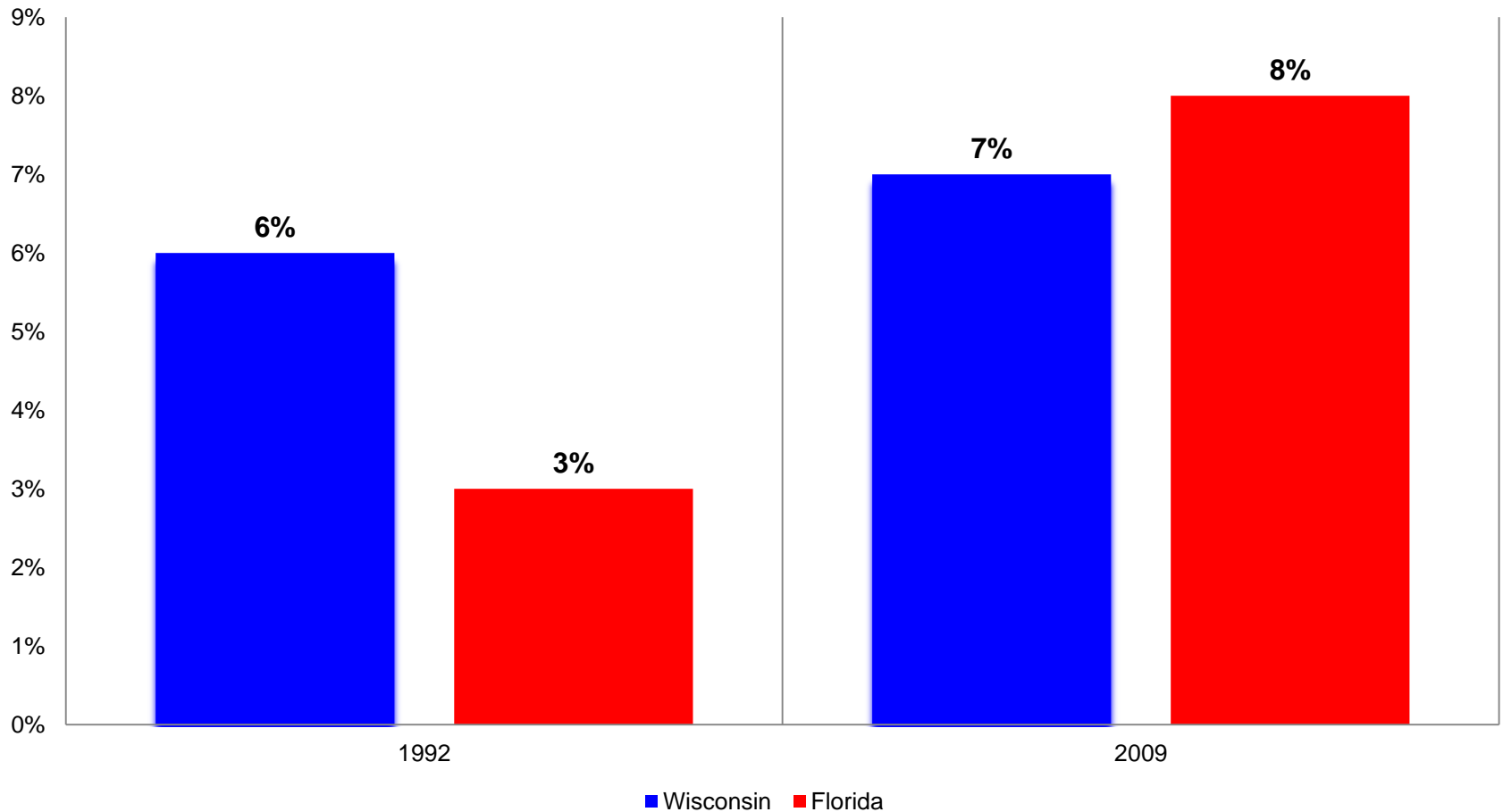
# NAEP

Percentage of Florida and Wisconsin Students Scoring at the Proficient level on NAEP's 4th Grade Reading, 1992 and 2009

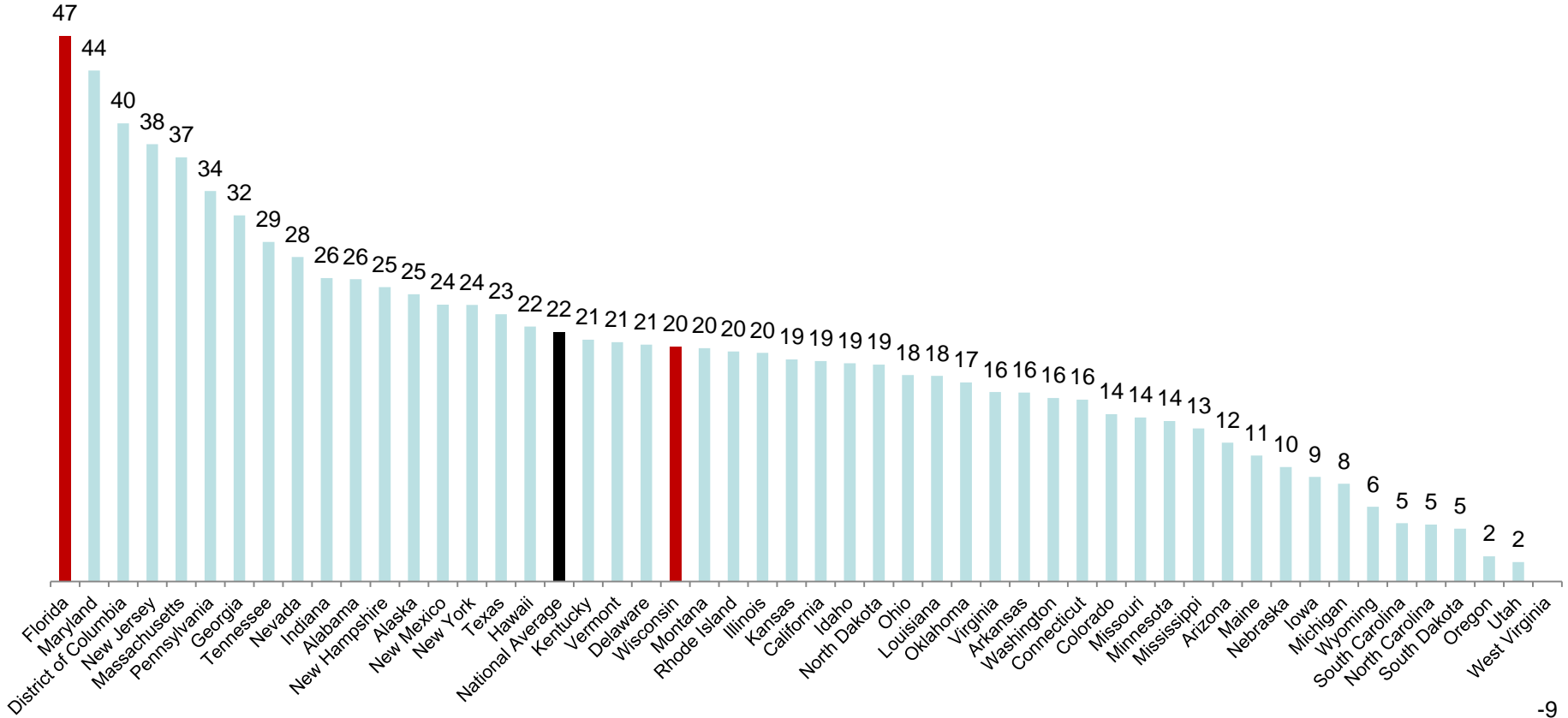


# NAEP

Percentage of Florida and Wisconsin Students Scoring at the Advanced level on NAEP's 4th Grade Reading, 1992 and 2009

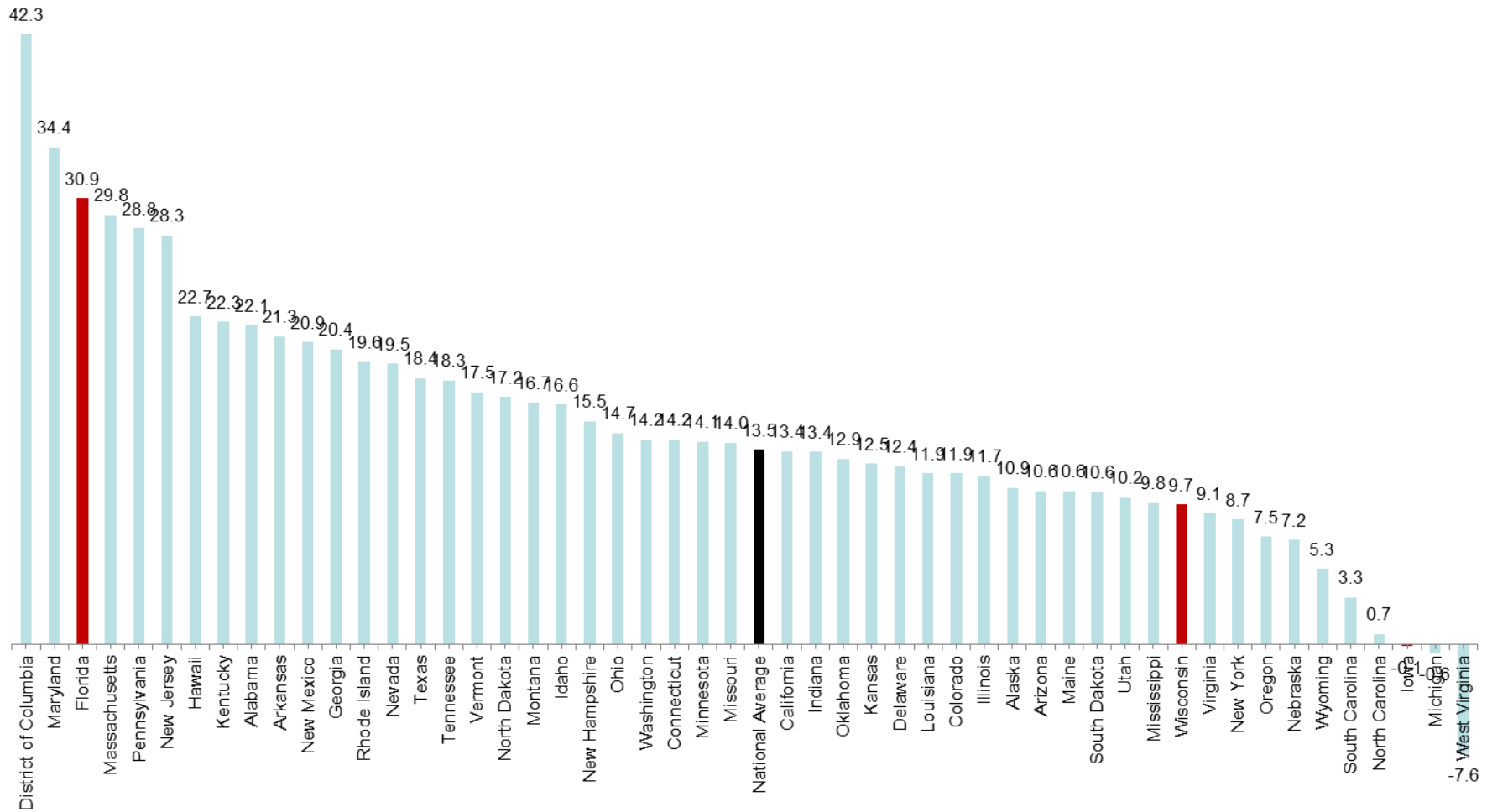


# Combined Gains for All Four Major NAEP Exams for Free and Reduced Lunch Eligible Children, 2003-2009

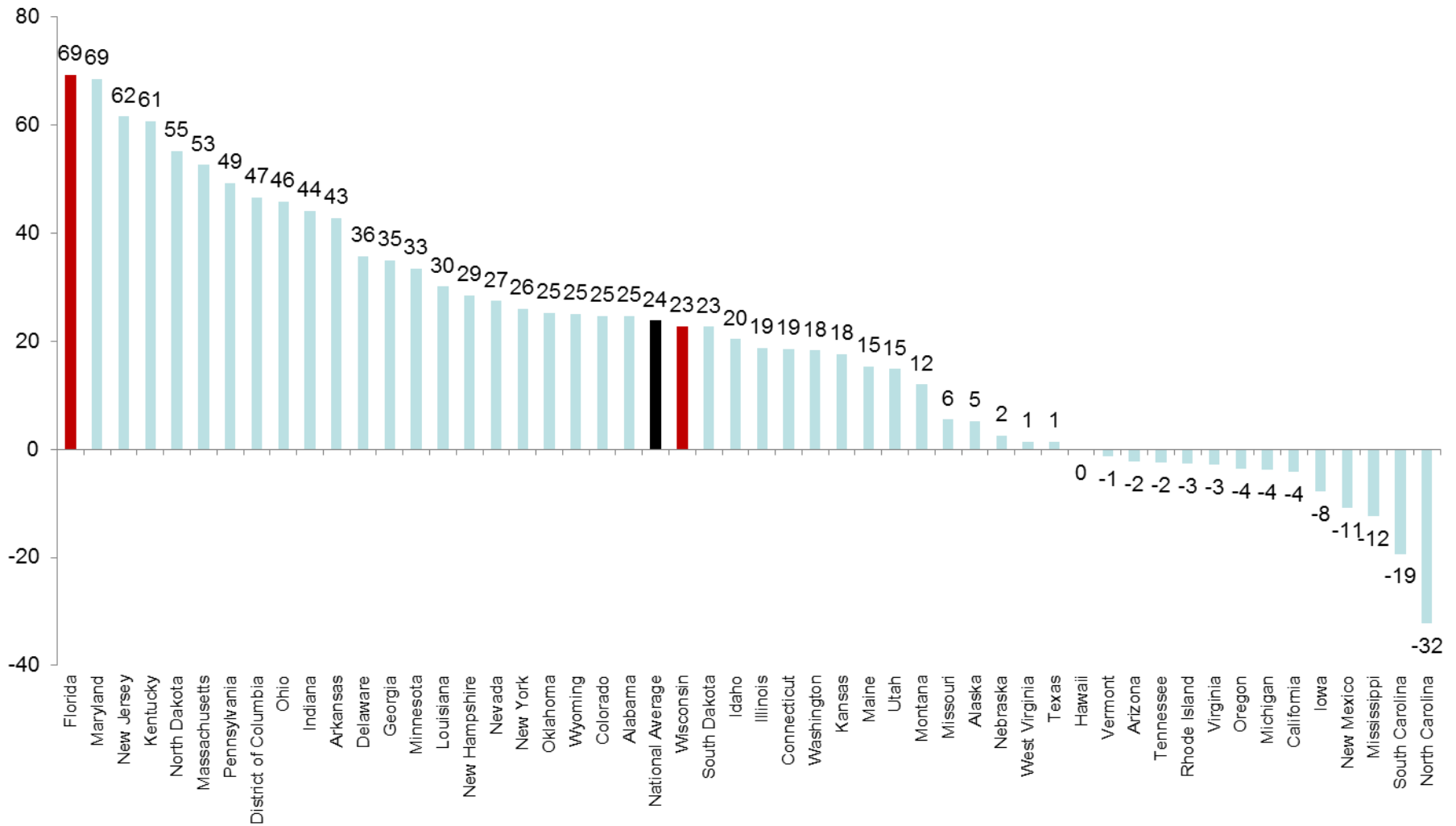




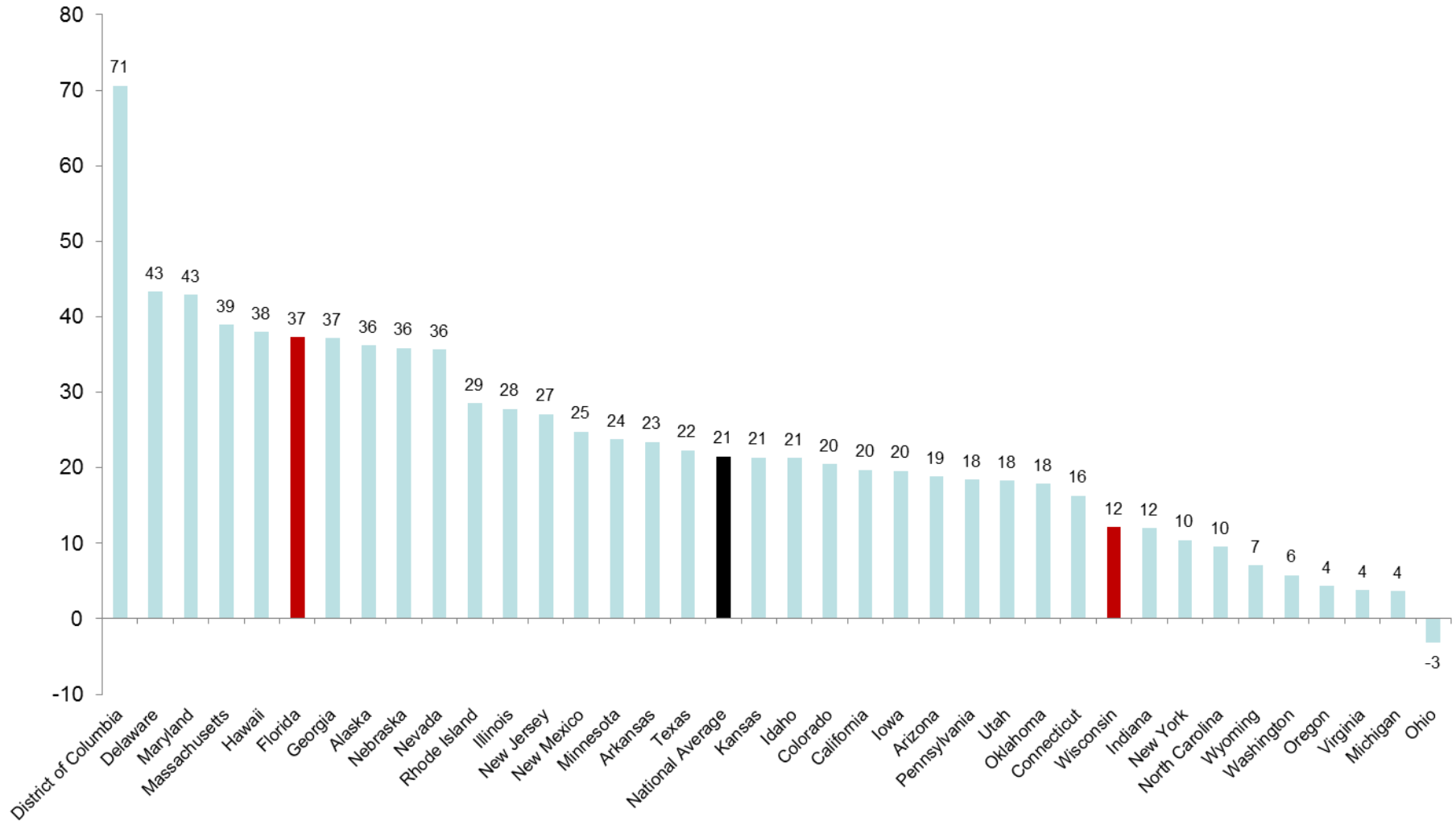
# Combined Gains on All Four NAEP Exams, All Students, 2003-2009



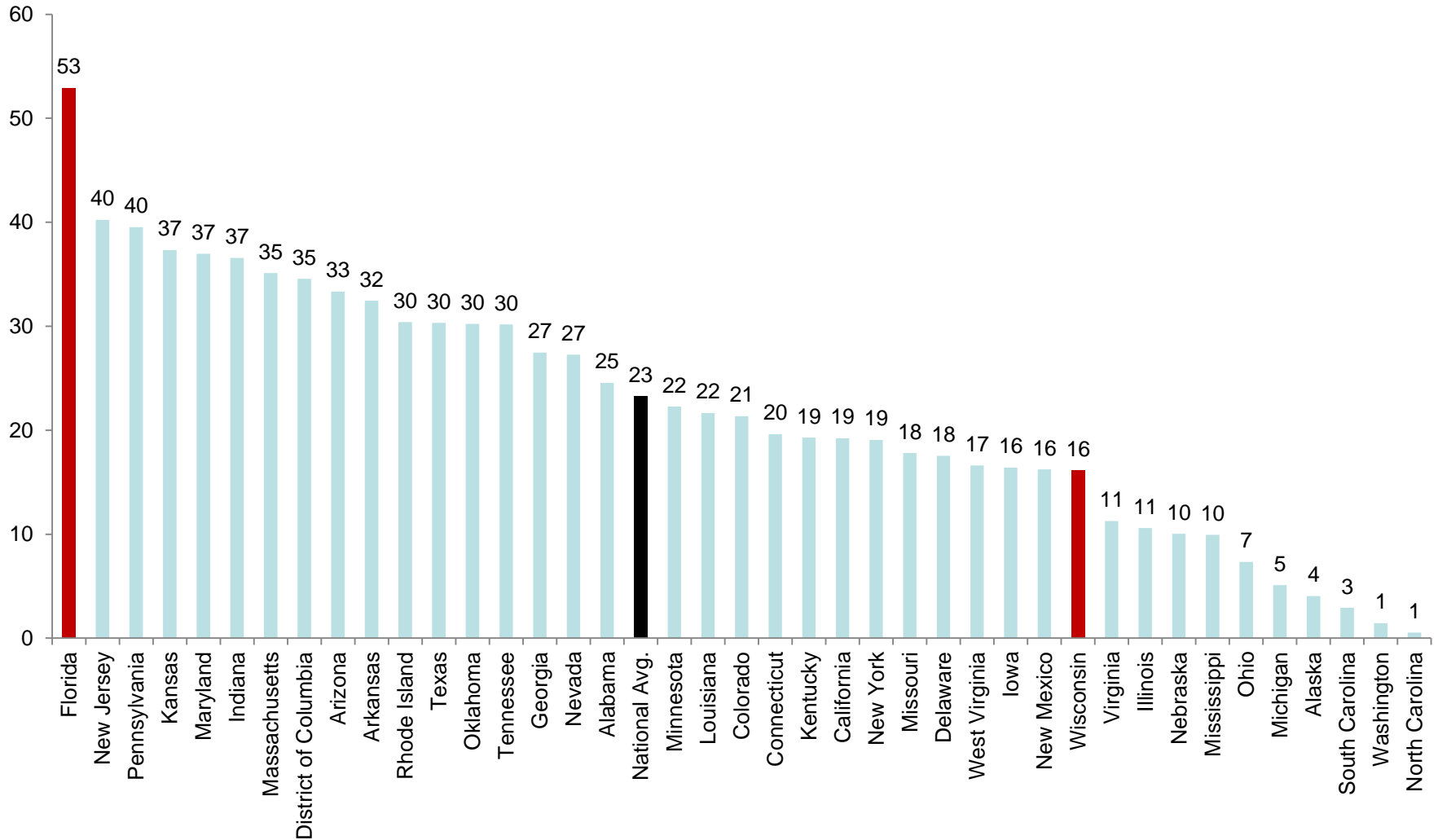
# Combined NAEP Gains for Children with Disabilities, 2003-2009



# Combined Gains on the Four Major NAEP Exams for Hispanic Students, 2003-09



# Combined NAEP Gains on the Four Major NAEP Tests for Black Students, 2003-2009





# **Florida Formula for Student Achievement:** *A Roadmap of Reform*

# Foundational Reforms 1999-2006

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- A – F School Grades
- Rewards for Results and Opting Out of Failure
- Promotion and Graduation Requirements
- Funding for Student Success
- Choices



# **Florida Formula for Student Achievement:** *A Command Focus on Reading*

# State Reading Activities

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- Test-based promotion policy
- Leveraged federal reading funds
- State-approved district reading plans
- Reading Coaches
- Florida Center for Reading Research
- Individual Student Intervention Plans
- Early Literacy screening in kindergarten – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade



# Measuring Student Learning

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## Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT)

- Aligned with state academic standards
- Subjects: Reading, Math, Writing and Science

## Testing expanded from 3 subjects in 3 grades to:

- In 2001, Reading and Math expanded to all grades 3 to 10.
- In 2003, Science added to grades 5, 8 and 11.
- Writing in grades 4, 8 and 10.

## Performance Levels

1	2	3	4	5
Below Grade	Below Grade	<b>Grade Level</b>	Above Grade	Above Grade

# An End to Social Promotion

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- Emphasis on reading as a gateway to learning.
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> grade: students are learning to read.
  - 4<sup>th</sup> grade: students are reading to learn.
- An end to social promotion in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.
  - Students who score the **lowest level** (level 1 out of 5) in reading on the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade FCAT **must be retained** unless the student meets good cause exemptions.

1	2	3	4	5
Below Grade	Below Grade	<b>Grade Level</b>	Above Grade	Above Grade

# An End to Social Promotion

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- Six Good Cause Exemptions:
  - Student with a disability who does not take FCAT
  - English Language Learners (ELL) who have had less than 2 years of English for Speaker's of Other Languages (ESOL) instruction
  - Student with a disability who takes FCAT and has previously been retained
  - Any student with a reading deficiency who has previously been retained twice
  - Student demonstrates proficiency on an **alternate assessment** (Stanford 9 or Stanford 10)
  - Student demonstrates proficiency through a **student portfolio**

# A Command Focus on Reading

Year	Percent of 3rd graders level 1 on reading FCAT	Percent of 3rd graders retained
2000-01	29%	2.8%
2001-02	27%	3.1%
2002-03	23%	<b>13.2%</b>
2003-04	22%	10.2%
2004-05	20%	9.8%
2006-07	19%	8.1%
2007-08	16%	6.6%
2008-09	17%	6.4%
2009-10	16%	<b>5.9%</b>
2010-11	16%	Data not yet available

# Retention Works

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Manhattan Institute researcher Jay Greene did a study on Florida's third grade retention policy, after two years of the policy, and found:

- Retained third graders made significant gains compared to socially promoted students.
- These gains actually grew substantially from the first to the second year after retention.
- Students who are socially promoted appear to fall farther behind over time, while retained third graders are able to catch up and succeed in later grades.
- Retention policies have had greatest impact on minority student learning.

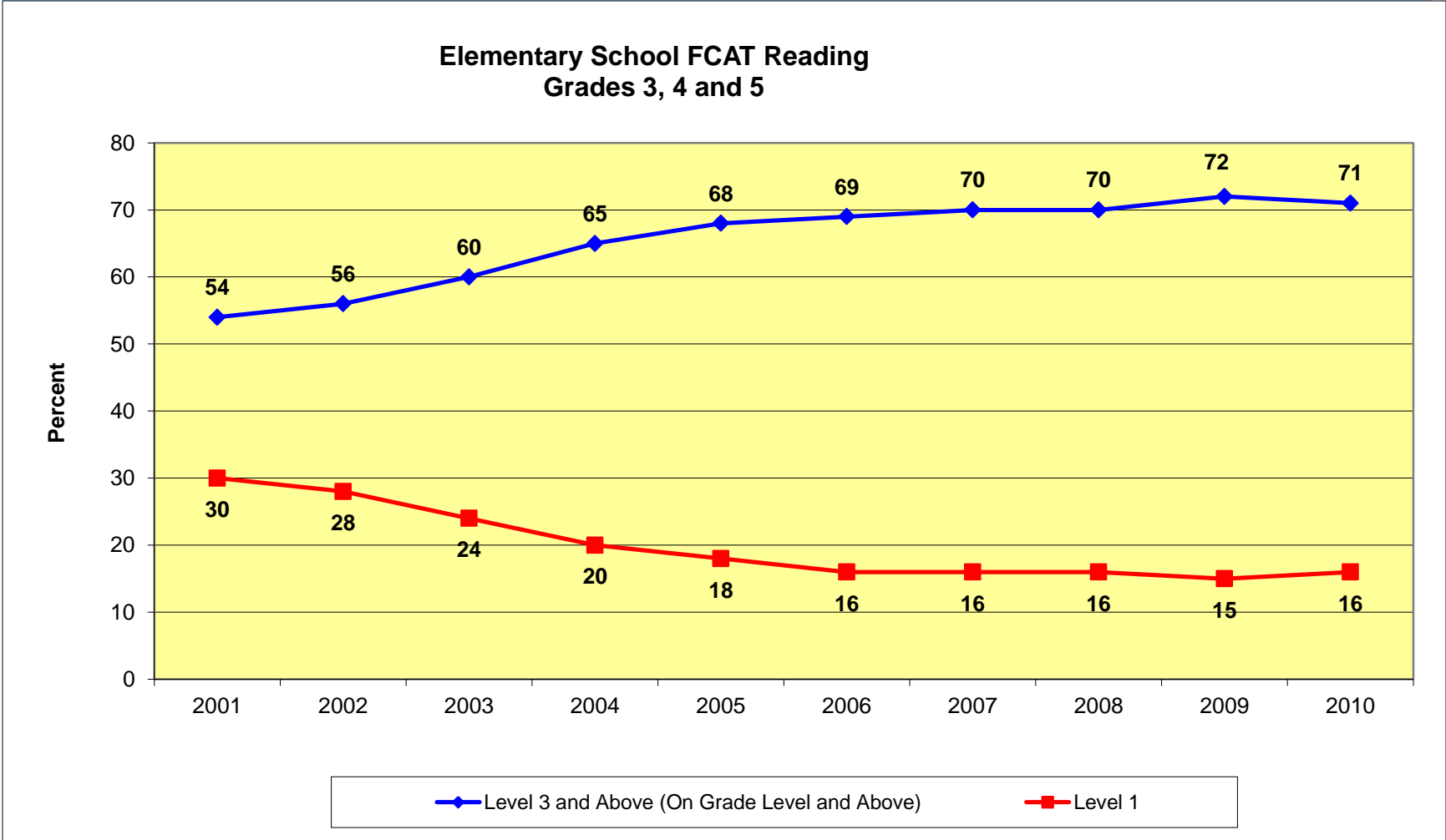


# **Florida Formula for Student Achievement: *Results***

*As the bar keeps rising on the FCAT, students and educators have met the challenge.*

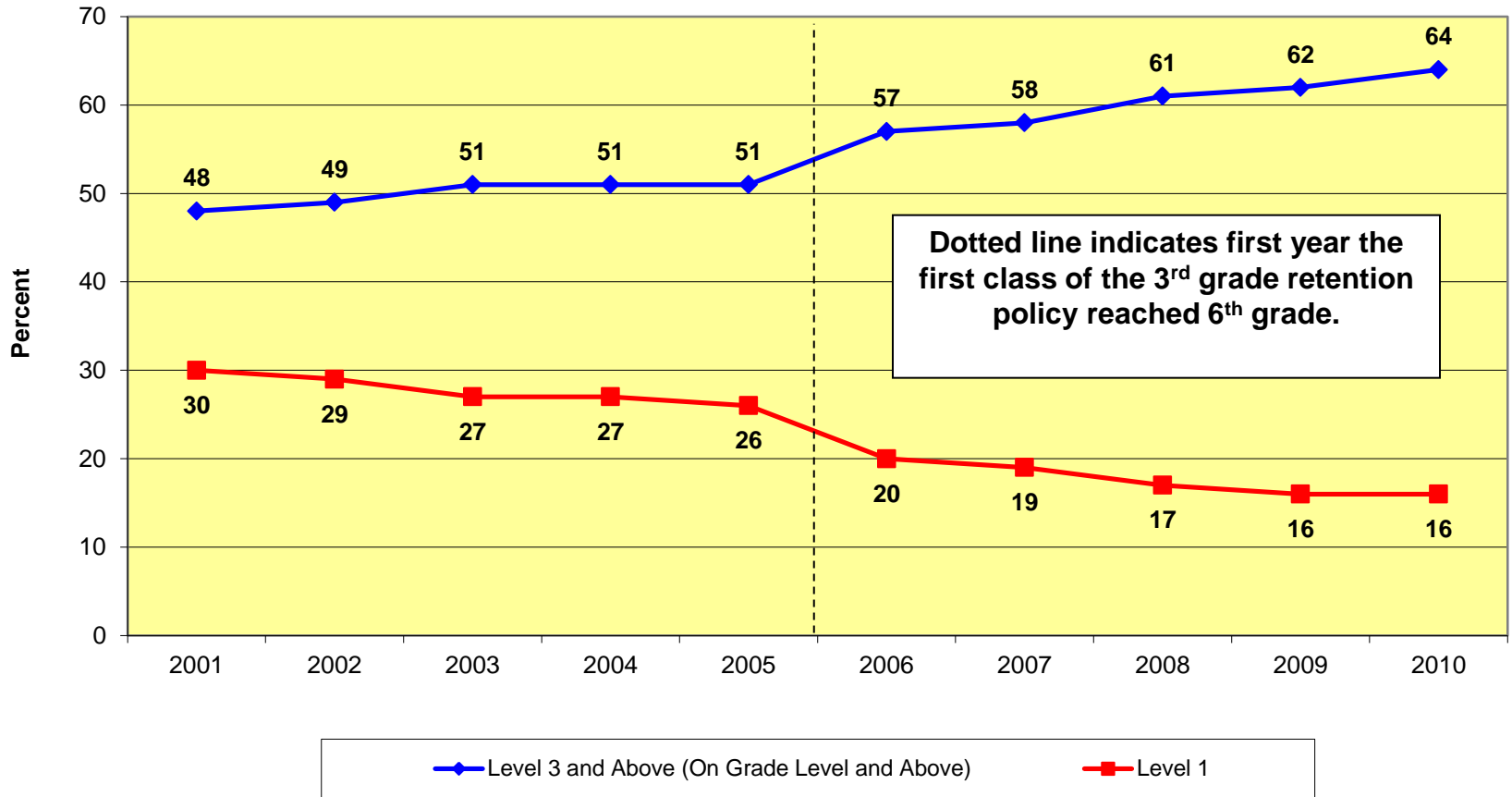
*Miami Herald, July 29, 2009*

# Florida Elementary Students



# Florida Middle School Students

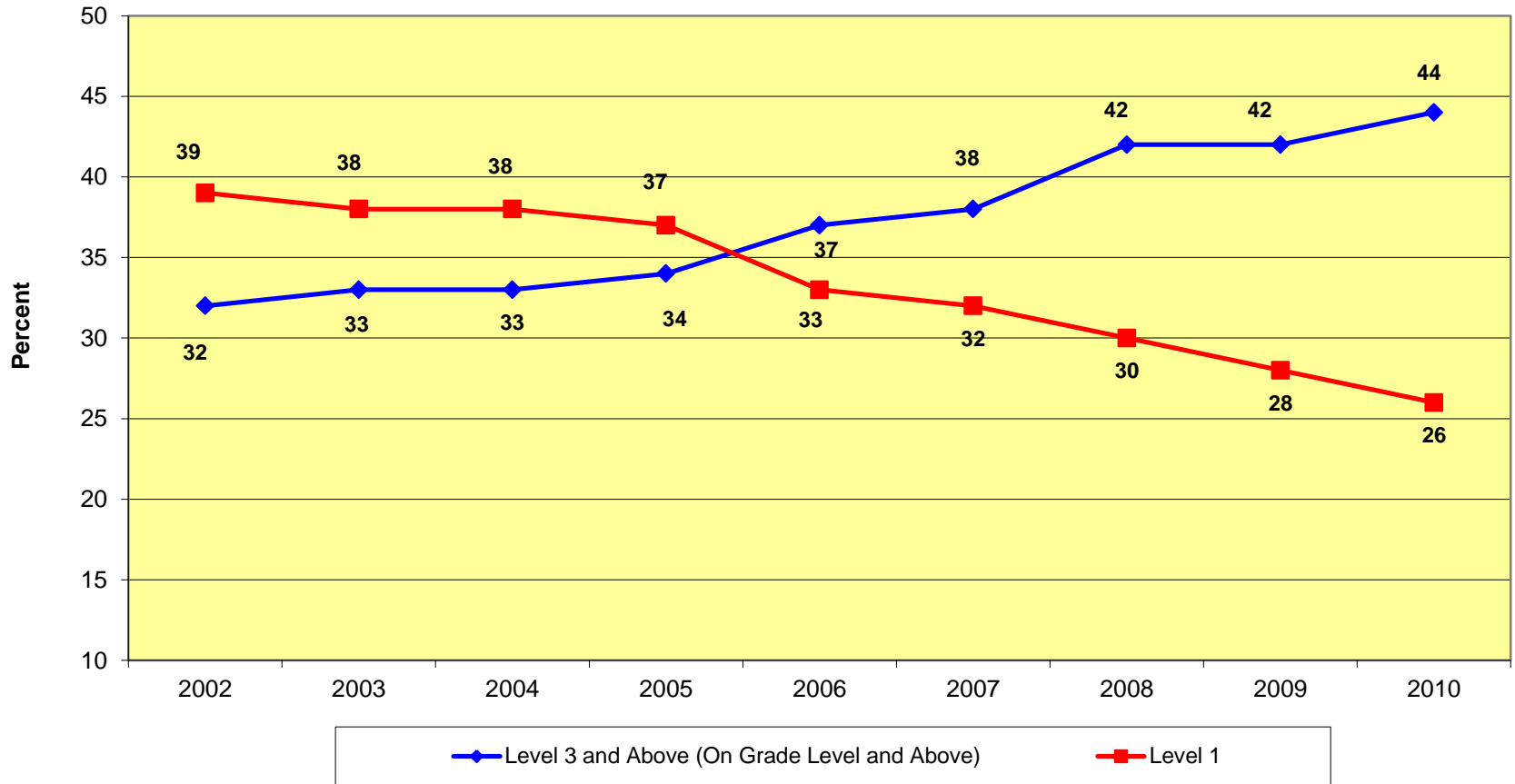
Middle School FCAT Reading  
Grades 6, 7 and 8





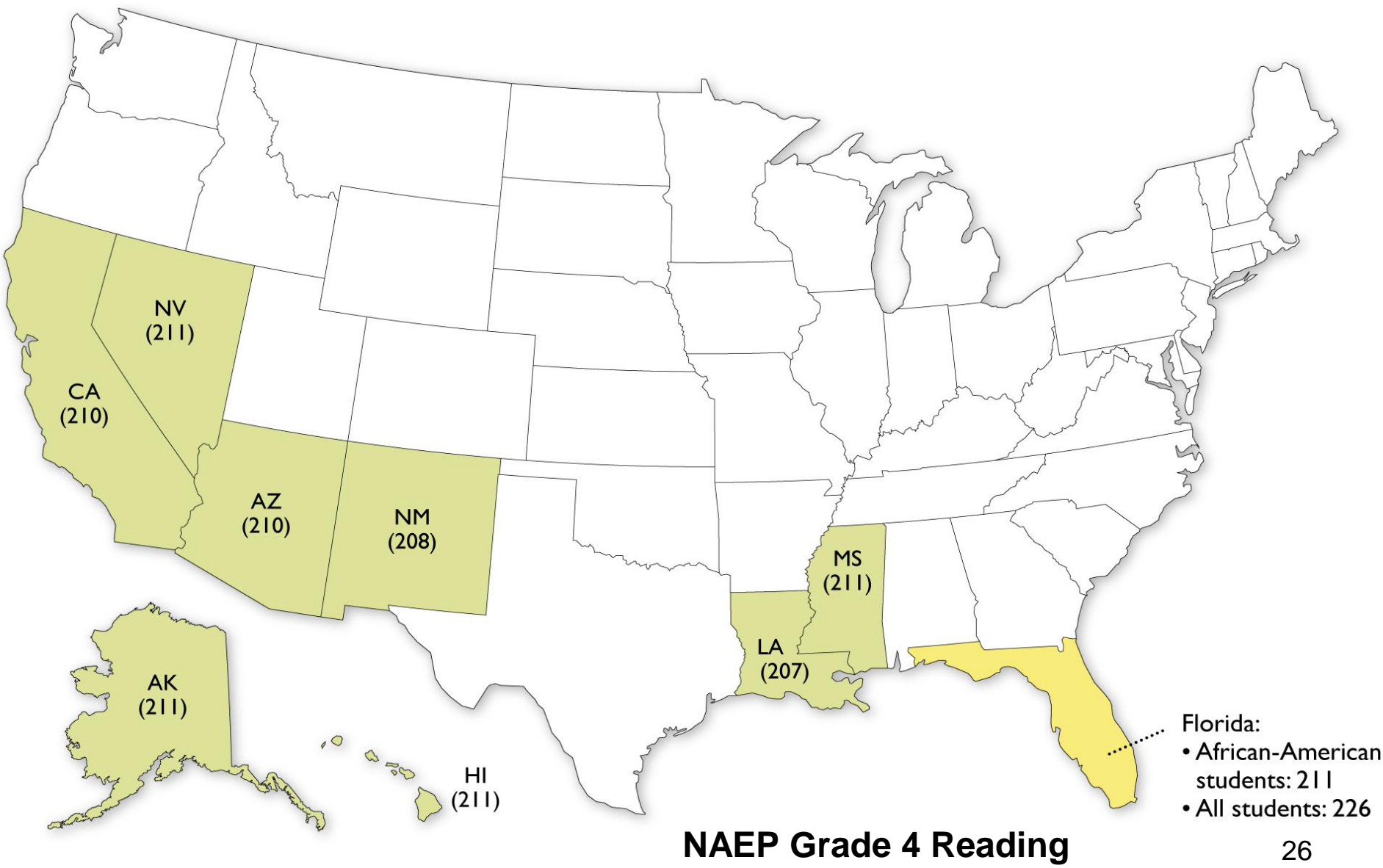
# Florida High School Students

High School FCAT Reading  
Grades 9 & 10



# COMPARING STATES TO FLORIDA'S AFRICAN-AMERICAN STUDENTS

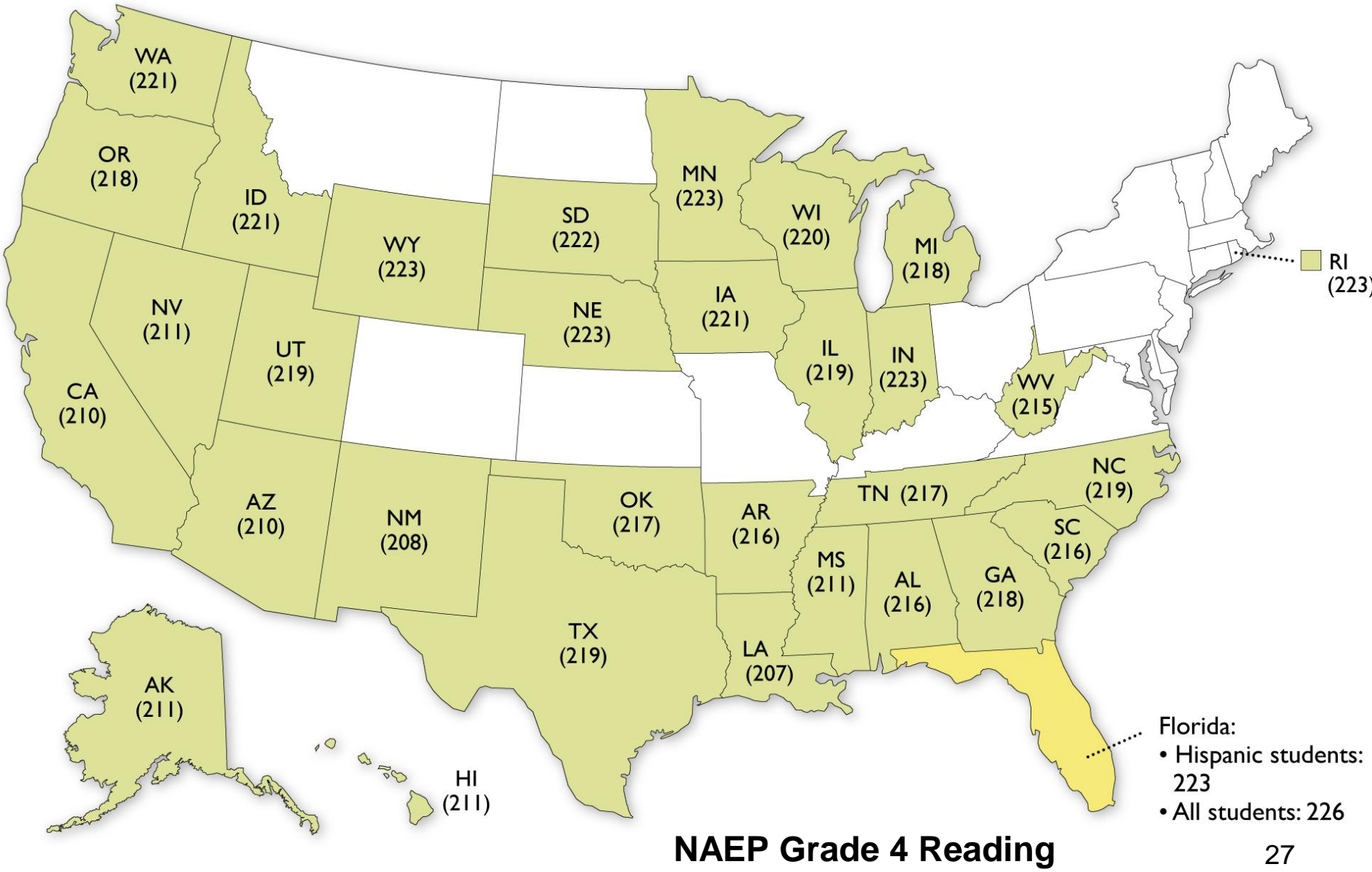
African-American students in Florida now outscore or tie the statewide reading average of all students in eight states.



Source: National Assessment of Educational Progress.

# COMPARING STATES TO FLORIDA'S HISPANIC STUDENTS

Hispanic students in Florida now outscore or tie the statewide reading average of all students in 31 states.



Florida:  
• Hispanic students: 223  
• All students: 226

## NAEP Grade 4 Reading

Source: National Assessment of Educational Progress.



**Keys to Reading Success:**  
***Policy, Funding, Professional  
Development***

# Policy Key to the Reading Success

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- Strong Policy
  - Hard-line in the sand on 3<sup>rd</sup> grade promotion
  - Good cause exemptions – still rigorous
  - Student portfolios – still assessment-based
  - Phased-in, gave 2 years notice

# Funding Key to the Reading Success

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- Funding Actions

- Leveraged use of state federal funds
  - Just Read, Florida Office
- Leveraged use of federal funds for districts
- Used state funds – funding formula
- Tied funding to state-approved reading plans
- Public/private partnerships

# Professional Development Key to the Reading Success

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- For teachers in the pipeline
  - Revision of state test, to include latest reading research
  - Educator prep institutes at community colleges
- For teachers in the classroom
  - K-3 Reading Academies
  - Florida Center for Reading Research [www.fcrr.org](http://www.fcrr.org)
  - Reading Endorsement
  - Content-Area Reading Professional Development
  - Reading coaches training
  - Free on-line and face to face professional development
  - Just Read, Florida! Principals' conference – all K-12 principals in state

# State Activities

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- Intensive Reading
- Individual Assistance
- Individual Reading Plans
- Increased instruction in Kindergarten through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade
- Families Building Better Readers



# State Department Role

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- Success requires monitoring
- Tracking student performance year by year
- Reporting progress
- Monitoring good cause exemptions

# Actions at the Local Level

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Locally:

- Schools started intervening earlier in kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade.
- Schools became innovative in their methods to reach students (i.e., reading camps, 90 minute reading blocks, tune in to reading).
- Individual reading plans for the students who were retained to ensure they received the skills they needed to be a successful reader the following year.
- Intensive student assistance

# Assistance to Other States

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- Reading Plan development
- On-line professional development
- Philanthropic Support for states

# Contact Information

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